

Victoria Hotel, Belfast - 2^{oth} Dec - 1845.

My dear Friend, I am again safe by in old Ireland after a weeks absence to attend the ^{Meeting} Anniversary of the Birmingham Temperance Society. I was just about to give you some account of it when your note reached me this morning - so you see our minds ran in one channel for once at least - if they never did before and if they never do again. I do not know that I can answer your request better than by giving you something in the form of a journal. Well, I arrived at Birmingham on Monday the 15th the day before the meeting - I went according to your direction to No. 1 - Monument Lane, I found Miss Boulthbee - a very neat, prim, and proper looking person - I was received politely if not cordially by her. Her father was not in - he was attending an anti corn law meeting in town. Miss Boulthbee said her father would be in soon. This was very encouraging - I was there about a half an hour - when in came the old gentleman - He took by the hand - (I felt his heart in it) He made me welcome - I felt happy in his house and this feeling continued to the end. Arriving near night - and our house being about a mile out of ~~town~~ town - I made myself content for the

night - without calling upon the committee which
had sent for me and to whom I had come, - after
talking with friend Boulton about the antislavery
cause and the friends in America (he never met
persons he loved better than his American friends
who attended the world's Convention) He mentioned
their several names with an ease and ^{one} interest which told
me they were often in his mind; I went to bed, slept soundly
till morning, about nine o'clock accompanied by
Mr. Boulton, I called on The Rev. John Angel
James D. D. to whom I had a letter of introduction
I spent ten or fifteen minutes with him, I
found him not only cold toward me - but
absolutely suspicious of me, He wished to know
if I came recommended - and if I ~~was~~ ^{belonged}
belonged to the Garrison party in America
whether I was a member of any Church - and
if any to what Church. I told him I was not
a member of any Church - and that I belonged
to the Garrison party - and that I had
credentials - He said significantly - I understand
the different antislavery parties in the
United States, I sold him one of my Books
He gave me three shillings and six pence
for it - and we parted I have not seen
him since, Friend Boulton ^{and} then went
to the office of Joseph Sturge - the man
of men whom I wished to see, He met him

He appeared conscious even - a mounting, to cold
ness. He seemed to have a heavy thought in his
mind - he was evidently depressed in spirit.
Our conversation ended with an invitation of me
to dine with him the next day. Friend Baulther
and I for he was with me through all, next
set out to see Mr Cadbury. He received me kindly
was rather afraid I would not come - acting on
his fears he had left my name off the bill an
nouncing the evening meeting. On talking
with him, I found he felt the meeting to be a very
important one - and himself measurably
responsible for its success - or failure. We
soon parted, I left with ^{the} impression - he doubted
my ability to interest the audience. - We next
called upon - Mr. ~~Nash~~ ^{Nash}. His face was covered
with smiles - real good hearty smiles though
up to his arms, in work upon his staves - he
dropped all - and received us warmly - and
beside invited us to dine with him that day. This
we agreed to do - and at the appointed hour
we were seated at the table with Miss Lucy
and her Brother, we had a good dinner
and spent a pleasant afternoon with Miss
Lucy - who is a good little person - talks freely
and always on the side of humanity. I took tea
in the evening with John Cadbury - and from

then we proceeded with him to the Town Hall the
place of meeting - It is a splendid building of tremen-
dous dimensions - said to hold 7000 people. I soon
began to think it a serious matter to speak to such a
meeting in such a place - The meeting was large
though ^{the} hall was not full, The Rev. Dr. Marsh was
in the Chair - The meeting went on swimmingly - I
was very edifying. I thought I perceived strong
evidence that the Committee did not intend to
let me speak - They acted for a long time as though
I were not there - and as though they had not invited
^{me} six or seven speeches had been made - The interest
of the meeting was on the decline - we had been
together nearly three hours - a strong cur-
rent set toward the door - at this moment
the Committee - as if waked by a clap from the
sky - turned to me, and asked me to second a Resolu-
tion - I rose - was recognized by the President -
proceeded - a few minutes and the current
turned toward the door - was turned toward
the platform - I spoke 35 minutes amid cheers
and sat down amid loud cries of go on.

I dined the next day with Joseph Sturge
met a number of the Sturge family there
They are Rowing folks - I fell in love
with Mr. Sturge, and had a good time
I left Birmingham on Sunday and
arrived here yesterday. We are all
up and doing - and the Cause goes bravely
on - Father Boulton - is a fine old man, he
cried like a child when I left. God bless him in his
declining years F. Douglass